

10/687,582

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C14-163313M/YAH (NGB.039Cont)

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawing sheet includes a change to Figure 1 to add a label "3" for the dashboard of the automobile upon which the present invention is mounted. This sheet replaces the original sheet which contains Figure 1.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet for Figures 1 and 2.
Annotated Sheet Showing Change to Figure 1.

REMARKS

Attached hereto is an Excess Claims Fee letter and fee for two excess independent claims.

It is noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements, even if amended herein or later during prosecution.

Claims 1,2, and 6-25 are all of the claims pending in the present Application. Claims 8-10 are allowed.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 2, 7, 11, 17, 22 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format and have accordingly rewritten these claims. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 2, 7-11, 17, 22, and 23 are now allowable over the prior art of record.

In the latest Office Action, claims 1 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Patent JP 07-160203 to Satoru et al. Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Satoru, further in view of US Patent 6,339,696 to Chan et al. Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Satoru/Chan, further in view of US Patent 6,144,358 to Narayanaswamy et al. Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Satoru, further in view of US Patent 5,075,686 to Shigemura. Claims 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Satoru/Shigemura, further in view of Narayanaswamy. Claims 14-16 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Satoru, further in view of Narayanaswamy. Claims 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Satoru, further in view of US Patent 6,144,296 to Ishida et al. Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Satoru/Ishida, further in view of Narayanaswamy.

These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

As disclosed and described by, for example, claim 1, the present invention is directed to a vehicle-mounted apparatus. A first panel includes a first display, the first panel being substantially directly mountable onto a surface of a vehicle and affixed thereto in a manner that the first display is viewable by a user. A second panel includes a second display, the second panel being openable and closeable with respect to the first display about a side thereof as a first axis.

Advantages of the present invention over prior art configurations include that it provides a display/control apparatus that minimizes space and reduces complexity for the control switching.

Moreover, relative to the device taught in Satoru, the present invention provides a simple mounting technique (i.e., substantially directly to the surface) that does not need an expensive and complex motor-driven linkages and mechanism. Additionally, in an exemplary embodiment, the present invention provides a control panel on the back face of the second panel, thereby allowing more space on each panel to be devoted to the display function and, in one exemplary embodiment, provides a display configuration in which a portion of the first display can be left uncovered when the second panel is in the closed position, thereby allowing the exposed portion of the first panel to serve as a small display area even when the panels are fully closed, relative to each other.

II. THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

The Examiner alleges that Satoru anticipates claims 1 and 13 and, when modified by Chan, renders obvious claim 6, when further modified by Narayanaswamy, renders obvious claim 12, when modified by Shigemura, renders obvious claim 21, when further modified by Narayanaswamy, renders obvious claims 24 and 25, when modified by Narayanaswamy, renders obvious claims 14-16, when modified by Ishida, renders obvious claims 18 and 19, and, when further modified by Narayanaswamy, renders obvious claim 20.

Relative to claims 1 and 13, the Examiner fails to explain how he considers that the

panel in primary reference Satoru is being interpreted so that it satisfies the description of being “substantially directly mountable onto a surface.”

Therefore, Applicants understand that the Examiner considers the present invention defined in newly-rewritten independent claims 2 and 17 as patentable, even if mounted to a surface in the manner of a sliding mechanism such as demonstrated in Satoru.

Relative to the exemplary embodiment defined by independent claims 1 and 13, the first panel 13 shown in Drawing 1 of Satoru is clearly not both substantially mountable directly onto the surface to which it is affixed when viewable by a user, since, in its viewing position, the panel 13 is not affixed to any surface of the vehicle.

Hence, turning to the clear language of the claims, in Satoru there is no teaching or suggestion of: “... said first panel being substantially directly mountable onto a surface of a vehicle and affixed thereto in a manner that said first display is viewable by a user”, as required by claim 1, and claim 13 has similar language.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 1, 6, and 12-16, 18-21, and 24-25 are clearly patentable over Satoru for this reason alone.

However, relative to the rejection based upon modifying Satoru by Narayanaswamy and by Shigemura, these two secondary references are non-analogous to the vehicle-mounted primary reference Satoru and, therefore, not properly combinable.

III. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

The Examiner objected to the drawings for failing to show the feature that the present invention is intended to be mounted on a surface of an automobile. Applicants believe that the above drawing and specification changes address this concern and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this objection.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1,2, and 6-25, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

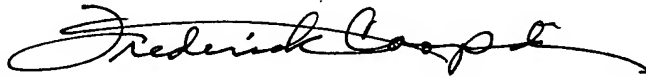
Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance,

the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 3/27/06



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S/N 10/687,582
Annotated Sheet

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FIG. 1

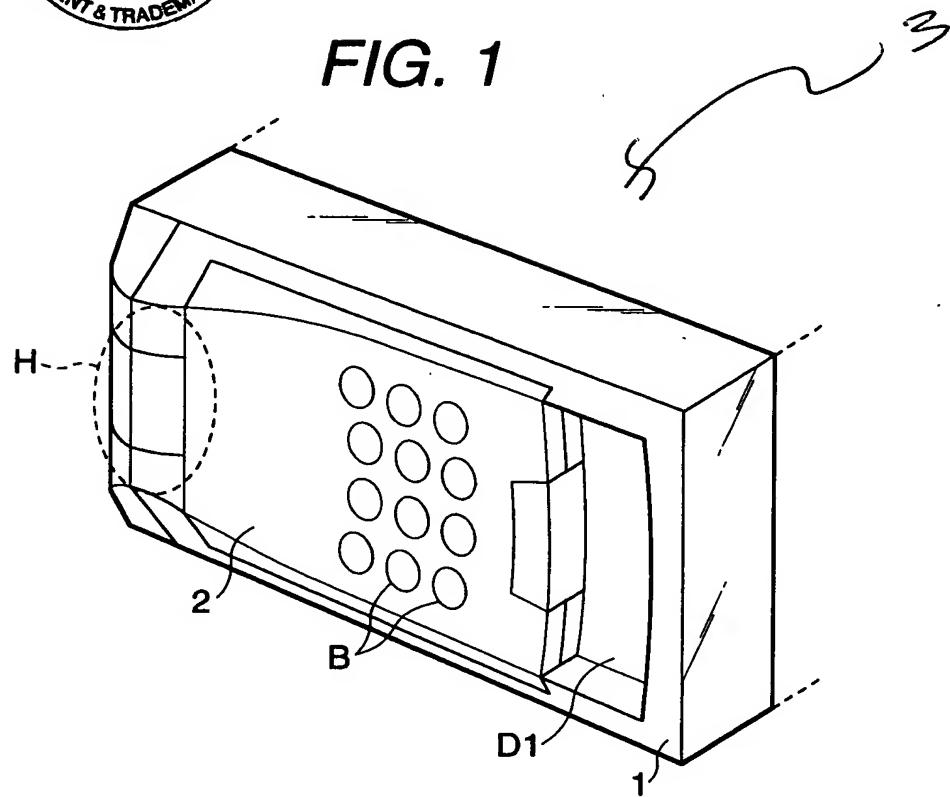


FIG. 2

